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CENTRAL PACIFIC
CONFERENCE

NEWS

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No. 1

WINTER MONTHS A TIME OF CONFERENCE MEETINGS

January through March calendar for Central Pacific Conference is filled with activities planned within the Conference as well as regional meetings which will take CPC representatives out of the Conference. Clergy and laity are invited to participate in the variety of events slated.

IDAHO PASTORS TO RETREAT

January 3, Idaho pastors will convene at Sun Valley for a time of renewal, fellowship and planning. The planning time will be spent identifying ways in which Conference staff and Idaho clergy can cover responsibilities previously covered by Ted Edquist. The generosity of several families making cabins available makes it possible for the event to be offered in Sun Valley where the skiers in the crowd will have a brief time on the slopes.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATES

Beginning later this year than in the past, those persons signed up for the Christian Education Associates program will gather at Interchurch Center on January 13 and 14. On the evening of the 13th they will be focusing on the educational mission of the UCC. The Saturday schedule will be devoted to the use of the Bible in Christian Education. Resource person for the Saturday session will be The Reverend Ken Kinneer of the Religion Department at Lewis and Clark College. Because Kinneer is so popular an invitation is being extended to anyone who would like to attend the Saturday session to hear him. The session will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 3:30. Church school teachers, interested lay persons, all are welcome. Call the Conference Office to indicate your intention to be present.

ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

As reported in last month's NEWS, Charles McCollough will be in the Conference from January 17 through the 22nd. Charles, Secretary for Educational Program, Division of Education, will be working with clergy and lay education committees on the stages of adult faith development. Members of the Portland Westside Clergy Cluster will move their regular Tuesday meeting to Thursday, January 19, to enable participation in this event. See the December NEWS for further details.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT EVENT

Charles will be joined by his wife, Carol, to lead a marriage enrichment event at Lincoln City the weekend of January 20-22. The McColloughs are licensed trainers in marriage enrichment. See December NEWS for further details.

EXECUTIVE BOARD IN BUDGET SESSION

On February 3 and 4, members of the Conference Executive Board will meet in Portland to receive the report on local church OCWM support for the 1984 Conference budget and, on the basis of that report, to authorize the payout budget. In addition they will be receiving reports on the process of reorganization of the Conference authorized at last Spring's Assembly and plans for the 1984 Assembly.

ADULT EDUCATION RETREAT

Camp Adams will be the location and March 9-11 the dates for the faith development event for adults. Theme for the event will be "Always Growing Up". The retreat will provide adults the opportunity to explore their faith questions and resources in response to those questions. More information will be sent to local churches along with registration forms. (Cont. on Pg. 2)

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH TO GATHER

Senior High youth from across the Conference will gather at Camp Adams February 17-20 for MIDWINTER '84. The theme for this annual event which is planned by the members of the Conference Youth Cabinet will be "A Future of Questions". Keynoter at the event will be John Nance, former United Press International reporter, author and video producer. Mr. Nance will be showing his video "A Message from the Stone Age". Midwinter participants will be offered opportunities to participate in workshops dealing with subjects of concern to senior high school students as well as ample opportunity for fun and fellowship. Registration forms have been mailed to local churches.

CONFERENCE TO BE REPRESENTED AT OCIS PEACE/JUSTICE GATHERING

Central Pacific Conference will be represented at an Office for Church in Society sponsored training event in Pasadena on February 20-22. The focus for the event will be the continued development of the peace and hunger/economic justice networks and the strengthening of the local advocates skills in effective public policy advocacy. Attending from CPC will be The Reverend Fred Strasburg, Medford; Jim Doane, Beaverton; The Reverend Louis Osborne, Portland; and Ellen Albus, Boise. Gene Ross will attend as staff.

CLERGY PRE-LENTEN RETREAT

February 20-22 will see the clergy of the Conference gathering for a Pre-Lenten Retreat. In previous years this has been a Post-Easter gathering but, because of the lateness of Easter and the early scheduling of the Spring Assembly, the Church and Ministry Department has arranged for the earlier gathering. Plans at this time call for the clergy to gather at Kah Nee Ta and to explore preaching resources. The planning committee is attempting to arrange for Ruben Sheares, Executive for the Office for Church Life and Leadership, to keynote.

CHILD ABUSE SUBJECT OF NEW FILM

With funds from the Conference Family Life Priority budget, the Conference has purchased A Cry Of Pain, a 15-minute film focusing on child abuse and neglect which highlights the need for compassionate care which churches can offer. The film, which is accompanied by a discussion and resource guide, is available for scheduling through the Media Resource Library.

ASHLAND CHURCH DECLARES ITSELF SANCTUARY CHURCH

Members of First Congregational Church, Ashland, by a 79% majority vote of the congregation, approved a "Statement of Faith and Concern" which, among other provisions, declares the church "...to be a 'sanctuary', a temporary safe haven for refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala. This action followed months of education and discussion prompted by "...the sufferings of our brothers and sisters in Central America and recognizing as members of the community of Christ that we are called to be instrumental through which the power of God can move..."

The church's action calls upon the US government to "recommit our country to the principle of non-refoulement (no forced return) of those seeking refuge in this country; grant temporary safe haven...insure fair and expeditious consideration, with full due process, for all persons requesting political asylum status. In addition, it calls upon the UCC Board for Homeland Ministries and the Conference to "assist Central American and other refugees by providing legal assistance, bail bond funds, food, housing, and medical care to these refugees."

The full text of the resolution is available by writing the church. In addition, the church can share educational materials to help other churches explore the issues.

NATIONAL CHURCH PROVIDES GRANTS TO OREGON PROJECTS

Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees, Portland, has received a \$3,000 grant from the Board for World Ministries to support its work among the refugee community. In seeking the grant, SOAR indicated that in addition to its previous work among refugees it is now seeking to be a facilitator in providing services to Central American refugees.

The UCC Hunger Action Program has awarded a \$2,000 grant to the Washington County Energy Coalition to support its efforts to develop training workshops in direct action organizing, self-help weatherization and how rates affect people's total budgeting, workshops that are to be available to churches and other groups.

The Local Scene

several Conference churches producing national newsletters for members highlight the two UCC priorities are The Congregational Church of Medford and Parkrose Community Church, both of which are producing peacemaking newsletters, and Meridian UCC which is producing newsletter on family life. If you would like receive copies of these resources write to churches requesting them.

members of Clackamas UCC are all settled in their lovely new building addition which includes a spacious fellowship room, a new office for pastor Sallirae Henderson and classroom space. The building is already paid for!

November saw the culmination of the Centennial Anniversary observance at First Congregational Church, Corvallis. The year-long observance, which included hosting the Annual Assembly in May, had as its theme, "Review, Praise and Renew". As a part of the final end-of festivities, the sanctuary choir presented selections from "Fiddler on the Roof".

Reverend Ted Edquist, who retired from his position as Associate Conference Minister on November 31, but who continues a very active ministry as pastor of First Congregational Church, Boise, has one of his prayers published WITH HEART, WITH MIND, the booklet which describes the 1985 projects to be funded through Family Thank Offering.

Reverend Louis Taylor, upon completion of interim services at Zion UCC, Gresham, has joined the staff of Shalom Ministries in Vancouver.

Members of First Congregational Church, Salem, recently honored The Reverend Carl Calhoun on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his ordination. Carl pointed out that the observance coincided with the 22nd anniversary of his arrival in Salem to begin his ministry there. Carl is Minister Emeritus at Salem First.

Pacific School of Religion has announced that the 1983-84 recipient of the Eugene Glader Scholarship is Peter Shober, who is in the care of Central Pacific. The scholarship was established by Eugene Glader of Bethel Congregational Church, White Salmon.

NEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE PARENTING CURRICULUM PUBLISHED

The second in a new series of resources for "whole congregation" education is ready. "Birth, Baptism and Parenting" is a set of six courses of study and ministry for older youth and adults which focuses on life issues faced by many young adults today. These resources, a part of the Faith Community Resources, are designed to help church members deal creatively with life transitions such as identity formation, parenting and intimacy. They are mainly leaders' guides, with exercises and work pages to be copied for participants' use.

Four books comprise the resource material: Birth, Baptism and Parenting Plan Book which contains an overview of the six courses; Supporting Parents: Through Good Times and Crisis, which contains two courses: "Ministering with Families of Divorce" and "A Guide for Developing Parent Support Groups"; Parenting Skills: Communication and Advocacy; A Day to Remember: My Baptism Book, a 32 page story and memory book written in Spanish and English and intended to be given to families at the time of baptism.

These new resources are available for perusal from the Conference Office and for purchase through the UCBHM Division of Publication.

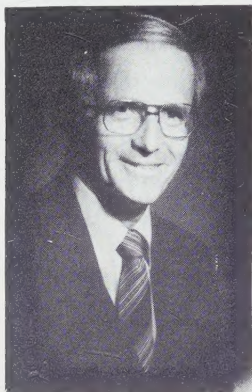
INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE LECTIONARY

An Inclusive Language Lectionary - Readings for Year A, published for The Cooperative Publication Association, is now out and several copies are available through the Conference Office for perusal. It is to be noted that this resource is "PREPARED FOR EXPERIMENTAL AND VOLUNTARY USE IN CHURCHES". It is not a new Bible nor does it supplant the other lectionaries available for local church use.

Ministers use a lectionary to provide a systematic way to cover a wide range of scripture. Over a three-year period, about 95 percent of the New Testament is covered, as well as a good portion of the Old Testament. The prescribed readings safeguard congregations from what might be the narrower choices of individual clergy.

An Inclusive Language Lectionary is prepared as a provisional, experimental and responsible attempt to proclaim the biblical message in an inclusive manner. Its use is voluntary. Local congregations using the lectionary are invited to share their responses with the Division of Education and Ministry, National Council of Churches.

The Last Word



DON SEVETTSON

Who, after all, will shape the observance of the new holiday? There will be those who view it as just another three day weekend - an occasion for ski trips or special mid-winter sales. Perhaps the NFL will try to make it the annual weekend for the Super Bowl. There will be others, of course, who will use it as an opportunity to preach a message of racism and hate - who will use the holiday to dishonor the one being honored. Some will assume that it is a holiday for black people only, and try every means possible to minimize its significance.

Who will shape the observance of the new holiday? Since Martin Luther King, Jr. was, to his very core, a Christian living out the Gospel message, it would seem very important for Christians to see his birthday as an occasion to live up those values that the Gospel message enunciates: justice, reconciliation, courage, faithfulness, vision, unselfishness, compassion, and peace.

The United States became a very different nation because of Dr. King. Laws and practices have changed. Opportunities have been opened. The ballot box has been re-affirmed as a place where everyone can express their preference.

One shudders to think of the kind of nation we might have become, were it not for Dr. King. Our society slid dangerously close to total polarization, with its ensuing violence, but Martin Luther King, Jr. held out hope for another, a better, way.

Two years from this month, a new national holiday is scheduled to make its appearance on our calendars. The birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. will be observed by all races in all sections of the country, with all of the honors associated with such days. It ought to be an important occasion for Christians who are concerned about reconciliation and peace. We will do well to begin now to get ready for 1986.

We have a rare opportunity these next few years. We have the opportunity to share observance, to establish a pattern. Will King's birthday be just another three day weekend this year - and each year - or will be an affirmation, a challenge, a Thanksgiving a step toward overcoming hate, war, poverty and hopelessness? This is our opportunity and our responsibility. We can make a difference.

WORLD COUNCIL ASSEMBLY COVERAGE TO BE REBROADCAST; LOCAL CHURCHES URGED TO REQUEST LOCAL SCHEDULING

Last Summer, NBC-TV News covered the 51st Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Vancouver and produced an excellent one-hour documentary on the gathering. In response to numerous requests, NBC-TV is planning to repeat the program on Sunday, January 29, 11 a.m. to Noon, EDT. Local stations are not obligated to carry the program just because the network is offering it again. Therefore, local congregations are urged to be in touch with their local affiliate, alert the station manager to the January 29 airdate, and encourage the local station to air it.

BOISE CWU TO MEET

All Boise churchwomen are invited to a soup lunch and annual meeting of Church Women United in Boise, Friday, January 13, Noon to 2:30 p.m., at St. Mary's School. "On Our Way Together" will be the theme for the gathering which will explore how churches, working together, can engage in prison ministry. For information call 342-1100.

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